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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,251	10/31/2003	Takanobu Adachi	SHO-0025	9042
23353	7590	10/05/2005	EXAMINER	
RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC LION BUILDING 1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			FRISBY, KESHA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3714	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

STW

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/697,251		ADACHI ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Kesha Frisby		3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 5/2/2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/2/05, 11/3/04, 6-18-04</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 10/697,251, filed on 6/18/2004.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Loose et al. (U.S. Publication Number 2003/0087690).** Referring to claim 1, Loose et al. discloses a gaming machine (10) comprising: means for displaying a result concerning with a game (paragraphs 0012 & 0026); and means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a specific game result is displayed on the game result display means (paragraph 0026); wherein the game result display means includes first display means (12a-12c) and second display means (14a & 14b) arranged at a more front side than a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine (Figs. 2a & 2b), and the second display means has a symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying a display result of the first display means therethrough (paragraph 0019), and wherein display control means (microcontroller 30) is provided, the display control means controlling the second display means (Fig. 11) so as to display game information (pay table) in an area including the symbol display area (paragraph 0019).

Referring to claim 2, Loose et al. discloses wherein the first display means has one or more symbol display parts (symbols on reels) capable of variable displaying (visual association with display area 16), and wherein the display control means controls the second display means so as to display the game information in the area including the symbol display area substantially at the same time that the variable displaying in the symbol display parts is stopped and displayed (paragraphs 0012 & 0019).

Referring to claim 3, Loose et al. discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (paragraph 0025).

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Referring to claim 4, Loose et al. discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (paragraph 0025).

Referring to claim 5, Loose et al. discloses wherein a window frame display area is formed at a periphery of the symbol display area (where the glass cover/window is inserted around the display area 16 for non-movement), and wherein display mode of the window frame display area is changed when the game information is displayed in the area including the symbol display area (for example: going from Fig. 5 to Fig. 6 to Fig. 7).

Referring to claim 6, Loose et al. discloses further comprising: means for instructing a start of the game (paragraphs 0017 & 0018); and means for determining an internal winning combination based on a game start instruction command from the game start instruction means (paragraph 0019); wherein the display control means conducts displaying concerning with a specific winning combination as the game information when the internal winning combination determination means determines the specific winning combination as the internal winning combination (paragraph 0019 / Fig. 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. **Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by**

Okada (U.S. Patent Number 5,152,529). Referring to claim 1, Okada discloses a

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gaming machine (slot machine 1) comprising: means for displaying a result concerning with a game (column 2 lines 45-47); and means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a specific game result is displayed on the game result display means (column 3 lines 2-5); wherein the game result display means includes first display means (inner reel 17) and second display means (outer reel 6) arranged at a more front side than a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine (Figs. 1, 2 & 3), and the second display means has a symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying a display result of the first display means therethrough (column 3 lines 2-5 & Figs. 2 & 3), and wherein display control means (controller 45) is provided, the display control means controlling the second display means (Fig. 4) so as to display game information (winning combination) in an area including the symbol display area (Fig. 1).

Referring to claim 2, Okada discloses wherein the first display means has one or more symbol display parts (symbols on reels) capable of variable displaying (display windows 3 to 5), and wherein the display control means controls the second display means so as to display the game information in the area including the symbol display area substantially at the same time that the variable displaying in the symbol display parts is stopped and displayed (column 3 lines 45-48).

Referring to claim 3, Okada discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (light-shielding lug 21 & 22 / Fig. 7).

Referring to claim 4, Okada discloses wherein light transmittance rate of the symbol display area is changed (light-shielding lug 21 & 22 / Fig. 7).

Referring to claim 5, Okada discloses wherein a window frame display area is formed at a periphery of the symbol display area (where the glass cover/window is inserted around the display windows 3 to 5 for non-movement), and wherein display mode of the window frame display area is changed when the game information is displayed in the area including the symbol display area (for example: the symbols change as the payer goes from the regular game to the additional game).

Referring to claim 6, Okada discloses further comprising: means for instructing a start of the game (column 2 lines 65-67); and means for determining an internal winning combination based on a game start instruction command from the game start instruction means (column 3 lines 2-5); wherein the display control means conducts displaying concerning with a specific winning combination as the game information when the internal winning combination determination means determines the specific winning combination as the internal winning combination (displays the winning combination in windows 3 to 5).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Inoue (U.S. Patent Number 5,752,881) teaches a symbol display device for a gaming machine that has a display window with outer and inner reels.

Inoue (U.S. Patent Number 5,395,111) teaches a slot machine with overlying concentric reels.


Malavazos et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,105,962) teaches a rotating disks slot machine.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kesha Frisby whose telephone number is 571-272-8774. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. & Thu. 7:30-4pm, Tues. & Wed. 7-4:30pm & Fri. 7-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chanda Harris can be reached on 571-272-4448. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kesha Frisby
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3714


CHANDA L. HARRIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER